

CHILD NUTRITION AND FOOD DISTRIBUTION DIVISION

MANAGEMENT BULLETIN

No.: 97-361

TO:	Summer Food Service Program Sponsors	ISSUE DATE: June 2002
FROM:	Summer Food Service Program Unit	
ATTENTION:	Authorized Representatives	
SUBJECT:	Sulfites in Tuna	
REFERENCE S:	Food and Drug Administration T97-13	

This Management Bulletin is to alert participants of the Child Nutrition Programs that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has issued a warning to asthmatics and others who are sulfite-sensitive. Canned tuna products may contain undeclared sulfites and should not be consumed by sulfite-sensitive individuals at this time. This applies to most white (albacore) tuna and a limited amount of light tuna. The undeclared sulfites in canned tuna are not a risk to individuals who do not have asthma or sensitivity to sulfites.

The National Food Processors Association and the United States Tuna Foundation informed the FDA that sulfites have been inadvertently added to a significant proportion of canned tuna products, without the manufacturers' knowledge. The industry has informed the FDA that it has corrected the problem. In cooperation with industry, the FDA is conducting an investigation to determine how the problem occurred and how it can be prevented from recurring.

Specific questions concerning the sulfite content of tuna can be answered by calling the Sulfite-sensitive Asthmatics Hotline at (800) 283-1112. If you would like general information, you may call Karen Brazille, Child Nutrition Consultant, at (916) 323-2486 or leave a message at the toll free number (800) 333-5675.

Duwayne Brooks, Director
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This is an equal opportunity program. If you believe you have been discriminated against because of race, color, ethnic/national origin, age, sex, religion or disability, you should write immediately to the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250

Delaine Eastin - Superintendent of Public Instruction

